

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090732

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: US POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS RELATING TO ROMANIA FROM COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON APRIL 12, 1976. CONGRESSMAN CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESIDED, (TEXT STILL SUBJECT TO EDITORIAL CORRECTIONS.)

1. MR. FINDLEY. FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SONNENFELDT, LET US SUPPOSE FOR A MOMENT THAT ILIE NASTASE HAS FINISHED A TENNIS MATCH WHICH ENABLES PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA TO GET AWAY FROM THE TELEVISION SET -- AND I KNOW HE DOES FOLLOW ILIE NASTASE'S TALENTS ON THE COURT VERY CAREFULLY. HE HAS JUST READ THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORT ON THE LONDON MEETING, AND HE FINALLY GETS YOU ON THE TELEPHONE. HE IS PAYING FOR THE CALL, A THREE-MINUTE CALL. YOU HAVE ABOUT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 090732

TWO MINUTES TO TELL HIM WHAT IS UP.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO AN URGENT, DISTURBED MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU IN BUCHAREST?

MR. SONNENFELDT. I WOULD SAY: "MR. PRESIDENT, DON'T

BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS" ---

(LAUGHTER.)

--- "OTHER THAN THE SCORES OF THE MATCH THAT YOU HAVE JUST
WITNESSED. OUR POLICY TOWARD YOUR COUNTRY IS EXACTLY AS
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ENUNCIATED IT IN
BUCHAREST WHEN HE WAS THERE AND WHEN YOU SAW HIM ON OTHER
OCCASIONS, AND WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO CONTINUE TO BUILD
OUR RELATIONS WITH YOU" -- ROMANIA IN THIS INSTANCE -- "ON
THE BASIS OF THE RECOGNITION OF YOUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
AND OF YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE NORMAL AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS
WITH ALL COUNTRIES, AND YOU CAN CERTAINLY COUNT ON US TO
PURSUE THE POLICIES THAT WE HAVE JOINTLY EMBODIED IN OUR
COMMUNIQUE AT VARIOUS MEETINGS, AND YOU CAN REST ASSURED,
SIR, THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES OR THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE
IN THIS CASE, WAS COMPLETELY INCORRECT, AND" -- WELL, I
WILL STOP IT THERE.

I WAS GOING TO MAKE A PITCH FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF
AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS IN ROMANIA AT THE SAME TIME.

MR. ZABLOCKI. I DETECT A CONTRADICTION THERE, MR. SONNEN-
FELDT, IN YOUR OPEN REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT. "DON'T BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE NEWSPAPER." THEN YOU SAY THE
NEW YORK TIMES ACCOUNT IS CORRECT.

MR. SONNENFELDT. HE WAS CALLING ME AFTER THE FIRST STORY,
NOT AFTER THE SECOND STORY.

MR. ZABLOCKI. WELL, IN ORDER --

MR. SONNENFELDT. LET ME SAY, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE
ROMANIANS HAVE NO LACK OF OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH
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PAGE 03 STATE 090732

OFFICIALS OF THIS GOVERNMENT, TO GET COMPLETELY AUTHORITA-
TIVE RENDITIONS OF AMERICAN POLICY. MOREOVER, THE
ROMANIANS KNOW THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM. THEY
KNOW THE STATUS OF VARIOUS OF OUR PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT
TO ROMANIA, SO THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION IN ROMANIA
THAT OUR LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICY IS ON-COURSE AND THAT
WE WILL ABIDE BY IT AND THAT, WHATEVER THE NEWSPAPERS
MAY SAY ON THIS SCORE, THAT POLICY IS STEADY AND WE WILL

PURSUE IT PRECISELY AS WE HAVE AGREED IN INNUMERABLE
STATEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THEM.

MR. ZABLOCKI. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WOULD SAY: "WELL,
COULD I SEE A COPY OF THAT MEMORANDUM THAT WAS SENT TO THE
AMBASSADORS?" DO YOU THINK OUR U.S. AMBASSADOR WOULD

SHARE IT WITH HIM?

MR. SONNENFELDT. OUR U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST? I
WOULD DOUBT THAT. HE IS A VERY DISCIPLINED AND CIRCUMSPECT
GENTLEMAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM SURE THAT OUR AMBASSA-
DOR HAS DONE HIS LEVEL BEST TO COMPLETELY DISPEL ANY CON-
CEIVABLE DOUBTS THAT HIS ROMANIAN HOSTS MIGHT HAVE ON THE
BASIS OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS. THAT AMBASSADOR, OF COURSE,
WAS PRESENT IN LONDON AND KNOWS VERY WELL THE DISCUSSION
IN LONDON OCCURRED ENTIRELY ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING POLICY
AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTED ANY DEPARTURE FROM THAT. KISSINGER

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